

REMARKS

I. THE AMENDED CLAIM 8-15 TRAVERSE THE § 112 REJECTION

Claims 8-15 have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to traverse the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection. The suggested revisions to the Claims from the Examiner are appreciated. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in the manner suggested by the Examiner's Office Action. As such, it is believed that these claims are in condition for allowance.

II. THE AMENDED CLAIMS 1-7 AND 16-20 ARE BELIEVED TO BE ALLOWABLE

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of O'Neil and Vaarala, but Claims 1-7 and 16-20 have been amended to incorporate some of the limitations found in Claim 8-15. For instance, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations relating to the inner tunnel address for the security gateway on the virtual private network, and Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate that same limitation, as well as security gateway address for routing packets to the virtual private network security gateway.

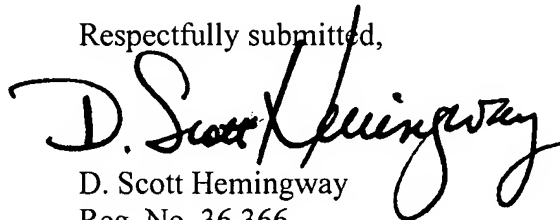
The Examiner has indicated that these limitations appear to place Claims 8-15 in allowable form. As such, it is hoped that the Examiner will consider the Claims 1-7 and 16-20, as amended, to also be placed in allowable form with the incorporation of these identified limitations, which are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the prior art cited in the Office Action. Reconsideration of these claims and an immediate allowance is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

The claims, as amended, are distinguishable from the teachings of the cited references. Independent claims 1, 8, and 16, as amended, are allowable because the cited references fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all the claimed limitations of the amended independent claims. Since the dependent claims add further limitations to the allowable independent claims, the Applicants believe the dependent claims are likewise allowable. Accordingly, pending claims 1-20 are all believed to be allowable.

A one month extension fee is enclosed herewith to pay for the requested one month extension of time request. It is believed that no additional fees are necessary for this filing. If additional fees are required for filing this response, then the appropriate fees should be deducted from D. Scott Hemingway's Deposit Account No. 501,270.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Scott Hemingway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D." and last name "Hemingway" clearly legible.

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